Recent analysis shows that while the average yield on Government Securities of shorter maturities (one to three years) is at present slightly higher compared to interest rates on Small Savings Schemes of comparable maturities, the interest rates on Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA), NSC-VIII Issue, Kisan Vikas Patra and Senior Citizens Saving Scheme still enjoy a reasonable spread over G-Sec. yield.

Net collections under small savings schemes are on lent to the States and serve as a source of funding their Annual Plans. Any increase in the small savings interest rates will result in a concomitant increase in the on-lending rate to the States. The State Governments have not been comfortable even with the existing rates of 9.5% for 25 years and any increase thereof will imply higher debt servicing costs and is likely to be resisted.

CNG filling stations in NCR

*42. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has failed to provide adequate number of CNG filling stations in the National Capital and NCR town resulting in inconvenience to CNG vehicle owners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CNG vehicle owners have to wait hours together to get fuel from the CNG stations; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to set up more CNG stations in the National Capital and NCR towns and also to increase the filling capacity of the existing CNG stations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) At present, IGL has 163 CNG stations in Delhi, the highest number in any city in India. There are 469 dispensers installed in these stations, catering to around 2,50,000 vehicles. Non-availability of land has been a constraint in setting up CNG stations. The number of CNG run private cars in Delhi has increased phenomenally in the past few months because of the differential in prices of petrol / diesel and CNG, thus putting increased load on IGL's existing CNG infrastructure. Also a very large number of CNG run private vehicles from adjoining NCR towns, as also all CNG buses of UP State Road Transport Corporation and Haryana Roadways originating from NCR towns, are being filled in Delhi due to absence of CNG fuelling facilities in NCR towns.

As regards development of CNG infrastructure in the cities of Gurgaon and Faridabad in Haryana, the State Government of Haryana did not give permission to IGL to operate. Subsequently, the Hon'ble Supreme Court gave interim direction in MC Mehta *vs* Union of India and other (13029/1985) on 04.04.2008 *inter alia* that IGL supplies CNG in Gurgaon and Faridabad to two private parties, which would develop the CNG infrastructure in those cities. At present, IGL is supplying CNG to Gurgaon through cascades and only two daughter booster CNG stations have been started there.

At present, IGL has one daughter station in NOIDA.

(c) In the normal course, the waiting time for CNG refueling at CNG stations is 5-15 minutes. However, this may vary from station to station and, at certain peak hours in a day, the filling time can be higher than 15 minutes.

(d) To increase the number of CNG stations in Delhi, IGL has taken up the matter with various land owning agencies for allotment of at least 50 sites. Eight sites have been allotted. Further, IGL is installing additional compressors and dispensers to improve its service. GAIL (India) Ltd. is providing pipeline connectivity to Gurgaon and Faridabad, So that CNG can be provided in these cities. IGL is attempting to expand the CNG infrastructure in NOIDA and Greater NOIDA.

LPG Supply to Northern States

*43. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly requirement of LPG in each State, district-wise;

(b) the quantity of LPG Supplied to each State during each of the last two years and the first eight months of the current year, State-wise, district-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware that there is an acute shortage of LPG in many States, especially Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether Government has received requests from various States particularly Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab for increasing the quotas of LPG in their States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Requirement of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in each State varies from month to month and State to State. Government is ensuring that adequate quantity of LPG is available in the country. LPG supplies to distributors of the State are being made as per the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

OMCs have supplied 9741.91 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT), 10306.92 TMT and 4236.69 TMT of domestic LPG in the country during the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and April, 2008 to August, 2008 respectively. The State-wise details are given in the statement (*See* below). District-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

(c) OMCs have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in Uttar Pradesh and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has